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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

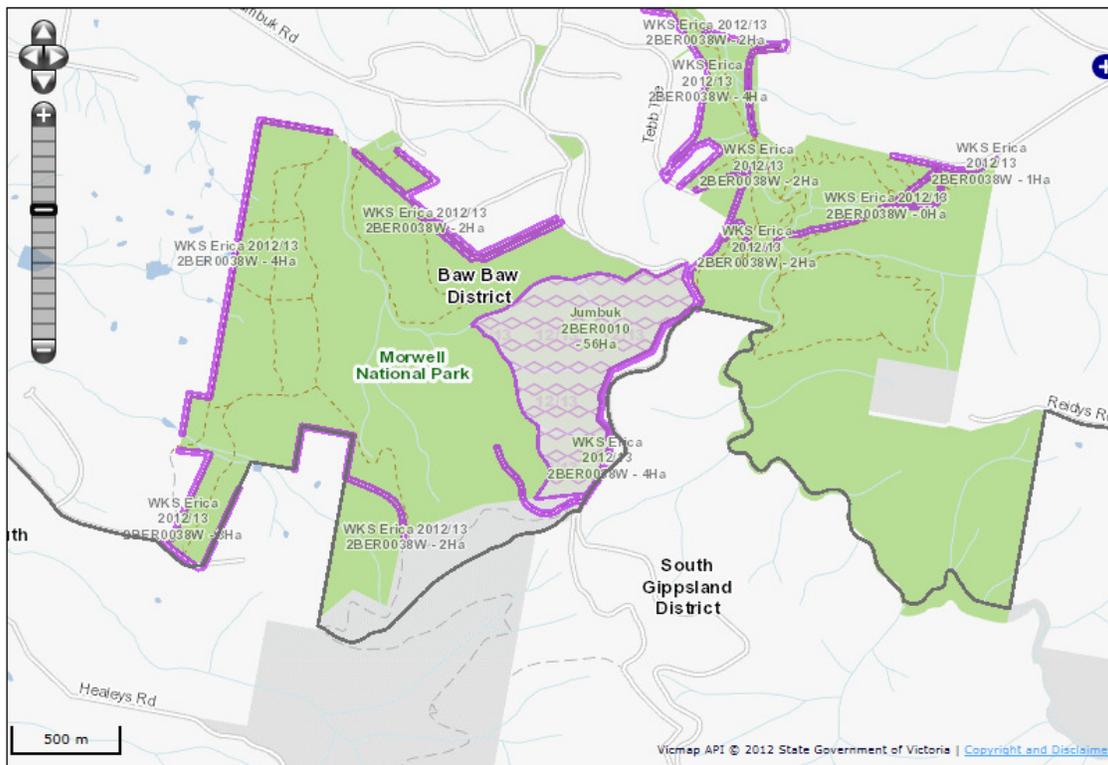
Newsletter – April 2013

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaeon.net>

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Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter. Summer is now over and autumn has begun.

DSE has planned to conduct a controlled burn in the National Park, during the period from February 2013 and April 2013. The size of the planned burn is about 56 hectares and will be the area between Foster's Gully track and Jumbuk Rd. The area is shown in purple on the map below.



Over the last month Ken has completed a moth survey on the Grand Strzelecki Track near the Park boundary. Ken with three others, transported a trolley full of gear to complete the overnight survey. They located 103 different moths with some being recorded for the first time in the Park.

Friends of Morwell National Park Inc: PO Box 19, Churchill, 3842, <http://morwellnp.pangaeon.net>.

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Other members: Mary Austin, Wendy Steenberg, Margaret Barker, Cathy Beamish, Eulalie Brewster, Reg Felmingham, Wendy McDonald, Joan Sikkema, Matt Campbell and Kerry Proud, Emma Pallett and Rod Haggith, Australian Plant Society (Latrobe Valley).

March Activity Report

Sunday 17th March

At this month's activity we had Ken, Beryl, John, Margaret, Wendy, Mike, Cathy, Andrew, Darren, and Craig. Andrew was along for his first activity. The group met in the car park to catch up on the news from the last month and plan the day ahead.

The summer crews have again been in the park over the last month cleaning up around the Park and completing more slashing of the grass. The Park at the moment looks very good with short grass on and adjacent to the tracks and a low cover of undergrowth. As the autumn rains start the undergrowth and grasses will thicken up again.

With ten travelers, we could fit ourselves into two vehicles and groups drove to the Grand Strzelecki Track. We drove in beyond the fourth creek crossing to the same location as last month. The creek crossings remain difficult since the grade into each creek crossing is steep. At each the creek crossings and along the tracks there was much evidence of a herd of cows that have spent a period of time in the park.

Although it had been wet the previous day, the creek level had not risen yet, so most of us were able to work in the creek in gumboots. Beryl donned a pair of waders, so this resulted in her and John being sent into the deeper parts of the creek. Craig used a drill and large needle to put poison into the remaining willows in the creek.

We completed two creek crossings up to lunch removing teasel, tutsan, thistle and foxgloves.

When the group broke for lunch, the creek was the selected location for lunch. Last month this location was selected to ease the heat, this time it was selected because it was the most comfortable place around. During lunch we listened to sounds of Lyrebirds from up a gully. Ken and Craig returned at the end of the lunch session. During the morning Ken had been adding to his plant and animal survey along the track. Craig had been removing weeds along the track and tracking the cows. Both had walked to the park boundary.



After lunch the group entered the creek again and completed two and a half creek crossings. Between the last two creek crossings there where a group of trees down blocking further access up the creek. While most of the group was in the creek, Craig worked along the track improving the access at the creek crossings.



April Activity

Sunday 21st April

The group will meet at 10.00am at the Junction Road car park to continue work upon the Grand Strzelecki Track to remove weeds from the creek. You will need to bring your lunch and suitable clothing for the weather conditions on the day.